



California Postsecondary Education Commission

770 L Street, Suite 1160 • Sacramento, California 95814

www.cpec.ca.gov • (916) 445-1000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact

Sherri Orland

sorland@cpec.ca.gov • (916) 445-1000

California Higher Education Panel Told State is Losing its Competitive Edge

SACRAMENTO — December 13, 2006 — Dennis Jones, President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems set an alarming tone as he presented a higher education panel with a wide array of data on the state of higher education in California. He compared California to other states and nations, with respect to higher education access, affordability, and performance. The Commission also discussed issues ranging from affordability and accountability of higher education systems to college-going rates and services in rural and remote areas.

In spite of the “cutting edge” education available at California colleges and universities and efforts to improve schools, California is now ranked 33rd among the states in high school graduates, 31st among associate degree holders, and 14th among bachelor’s and graduate degree holders. Internationally, California’s lead in higher education is slipping as well. About one-third of 25-34 year olds hold some degree in California, while the United States average is 39% and other countries can boast averages over 53%.

Executive Director Murray J. Haberman stressed, “Business demands talented, educated students and if the supply is not available in California, companies will take their business elsewhere.” He added, “With current technology, business can outsource jobs to countries that have an increasingly well-educated workforce with workers who are willing to accept substantially lower salaries. The state must act now to ensure California remains competitive in a global, knowledge-based economy by increasing degree production.”

Commission Chair Howard Welinsky stated, “The Commission will work diligently to encourage state policy makers to increase the amount of resources going to higher education,

—MORE—

while trying to maintain the state's historic commitment to provide access to higher education that is affordable for all Californians.”

Detailed information from the presentation by Mr. Jones is available on the Commission's website at: <http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0612/pptDennisJones.pdf> .

#

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.